



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH RESULTS

By Mayor Gene Winstead

THROUGHOUT LAST FALL, RESIDENTS WERE asked how they see the future of Bloomington. According to comments from a community outreach process, they generally want a clean, green and safe environment.

Topping the list of what residents want for the future are safe and well-maintained neighborhoods. Residents would like to see an increased focus on property maintenance, including enforcement of City codes. According to one respondent, “As an older suburb, it’s very important not to let our city get run down.” Parks and open space are also highly valued by residents who listed maintaining parks and providing stewardship of natural areas as priorities.

Almost 900 people participated in an online survey, community meetings, focus groups and strategic partners meetings to help determine Bloomington’s future for the next 20 years. The most important issues, according to participants’ responses, include crime and safety, transportation and school quality.

Overall, 78 percent of participants in an online survey rated the status of

“Bloomington needs to attract new families with children to allow for continued renewal of our community,” wrote one survey respondent. This sentiment was echoed by several participants, who felt that families with children bring vibrancy to the community. High-quality schools are considered a prerequisite to attracting families. “The existing quality of education is excellent. However, I would place education as the number one priority over the next 20 years,” wrote another resident.



Bloomington the same or better than surrounding cities. When asked about preferences for quality of City services, 84 percent said services should be provided at the same or better quality than other cities.

Many respondents noted that they appreciated the chance to express their thoughts and ideas on Bloomington’s future. The input received from residents will be very helpful as we move forward with strategic planning.

A draft vision for Bloomington was developed from the community outreach process and will be presented to the City Council for approval. The vision centers

on four key concepts: people, neighborhoods, businesses and government.

The next step in the strategic planning process is to finalize a vision statement and identify strategic challenges and initiatives. After this process, goals, objectives and action items will be developed.

Strategic planning updates will be posted on the City’s Web site as the process moves forward. The final mission and vision for Imagine Bloomington 2025 is expected to be completed by late summer 2007.

## BRIEFING

Volume 15, Number 1

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8818; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us. **Web site: [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)**

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## THANK YOU NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PARTICIPANTS! BLOOMINGTON RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

BLOOMINGTON IS A NATIONAL AWARD winner for outstanding participation in the 23rd Annual National Night Out (NNO) crime, drug and violence prevention program held last August. Our city was recognized as the seventh-best in the nation among cities with populations from 50,000 to 99,999.

Bloomington’s NNO program has received seven consecutive national awards, thanks in part to the efforts of program coordinator and Crime

Prevention Specialist Niki Pierson. Pierson scheduled more than 300 police officers, firefighters and paramedics to visit the registered 350 neighborhood parties in 2006. She also provides information and helps neighborhood block captains select activities for the NNO event, coordinates the annual Block Captains’ Workshop and assists with coordinating the Citizens’ Police Academy.



Police Chief John Laux and Crime Prevention Specialist Niki Pierson accepted the national award for Bloomington.



Only Tap Water Delivers



### DID YOU KNOW?

Only 3 percent of the tap water residents use on a typical day is used for drinking. The rest goes for activities such as outdoor watering, bathroom uses and laundering.

## MORE THAN A CONVENIENCE

### TAP WATER IS CENTRAL TO OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

ANY MEASURE OF A SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY – LOW MORTALITY RATES, ECONOMIC DIVERSITY, productivity, public safety – is in some way related to access to safe water. Tap water does what no other water can do.

Tap water is so intricately part of our lives that we can hardly imagine a day without it. Without tap water, how would we rinse our produce, clean dishes and clothes, water plants and landscapes or wash our cars? Where would we shower? How many businesses would have to suspend operations or relocate entirely? How would our institutions – from hospitals to firehouses to schools – function?

Americans tap into about 341 billion gallons of tap water every day. Total water use, both indoor and outdoor, in a typical single-family home is 101 gallons per capita per day.

**Fifteen drips per minute from a leaky faucet adds up to nearly 65 gallons of drinkable water wasted per month. That’s 788 gallons per year!**

Presented in cooperation with

